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To Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson, and
Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Testimony on Acupuncture Bill HB535

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Acupuncture and its associated modalities has been demonstrated to be a cost effective option for managing chronic issues such as back pain, headaches, arthritis and depression. Additionally, acupuncture can be helpful for palliating a number of symptoms or conditions for which there are only limited medical treatments, such as inflammatory bowel diseases and side effects and sequelae of chemotherapy and radiotherapy when such acupuncture is provided by well-trained acupuncturists.

Treating chronic pain without the use of drugs that have either significant side effects or addictive properties is difficult, especially when such medications themselves are linked to additionally morbidities.

Acupuncture has a well-documented high patient satisfaction rate and low adverse event (AE) rate.

In a recent UB patient study, patients reported feeling relaxed, energized, sometimes drowsy and some needle site pain, but no bleeding, faintness or serious side effects after an acupuncture treatment when treated by student interns with, on average, over 1500-hours of training. Satisfaction rates for these same patients were in the 90th percentile.

